

Message Text

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R 110223Z SEP 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USLO PEKING
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 225197

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, OTRA, BTRA, PDIP, SCUL, CH, US

SUBJECT: EA/PRCM WEEKLY STATUS REPORT

1. CHAIRMAN MAO'S DEATH (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

CHAIRMAN MAO'S DEATH AT TEN MINUTES AFTER MIDNIGHT
SEPTEMBER 9 WAS ANNOUNCED BY NCNA SOME SIXTEEN HOURS LATER,
APPROXIMATELY THE SAME TIME LAPSE AS IN THE CASE OF CHOU
EN-LAI. THE CHINESE ALSO ANNOUNCED PROMPTLY THAT FOREIGN
DELEGATIONS WOULD NOT BE INVITED TO THE FUNERAL. THE
PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY HAVE MADE STATEMENTS TO THE
PRESS ON MAO'S DEATH, AND CONDOLENCE MESSAGES ARE AWAITING
FINAL SIGNATURE. THE SECRETARY TELEPHONED AMBASSADOR HUANG
CHEN AT 9:30 A.M. SEPTEMBER 9 TO EXPRESS HIS PERSONAL CON-
DOLENCES. A CIRCULAR CABLE OF GUIDANCE HAS BEEN SENT TO
ALL POSTS.

A CONDOLENCE BOOK WILL BE OPEN AT PRCLO FOR SIGNATURE FROM
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10:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M. THROUGH SEPTEMBER 18. WE ARE WORK-

ING WITH THE SECRETARY'S OFFICE ON WHEN HE WILL SIGN.

IN VIEW OF THIS SUDDEN DEVELOPMENT, AMBASSADOR GATES IS RETURNING TO PEKING ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12. INITIAL REPORTING FROM USLO IS THAT THE MOOD IN PEKING IS "SOMBER BUT ORDERLY."

2. SCHLESINGER VISIT CUT SHORT (CONFIDENTIAL)

AS A RESULT OF MAO'S DEATH, THE SCHLESINGER PARTY'S ITINERARY OUTSIDE OF PEKING HAS BEEN CANCELED AND PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS WITH HIGH CHINESE LEADERS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO TAKE PLACE. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF MAO'S DEATH OCCURRED WHILE THE GROUP WAS OBSERVING A MARKSMANSHIP DEMONSTRATION ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF PEKING AND PRODUCED A GENUINE SHOW OF EMOTION ON THE PART OF THE CHINESE PRESENT.

SCHLESINGER WAS EARLIER HOSTED AT DINNER BY FOREIGN MINISTER CHIAO ON SEPTEMBER 7. IN HIS TOAST, CHIAO PRAISED SCHLESINGER FOR HIS VIEW THAT THE SOVIET UNION "TALKS PEACE BUT PRACTICES WAR" AND CRITICIZED THOSE WHO "TRY APPEASEMENT AND CONCESSION OR EVEN SACRIFICE OTHERS IN AN ATTEMPT TO PROTECT THEMSELVES." THE LATTER WAS A NEW ADDITION TO CHIAO'S OTHERWISE STANDARD RHETORIC.

3. US DELEGATIONS TO THE PRC (CONFIDENTIAL)

THE CSC-SPONSORED STEROID CHEMISTRY DELEGATION BOWED TO PRC PRESSURE SEPTEMBER 8 AND ACCEPTED THE PRC POSITION THAT SOCIAL SCIENTIST/CHINA SCHOLAR DAVID LAMPTON WILL TRAVEL WITH THE DELEGATION IN THE "EXCLUSIVE CAPACITY AS INTERPRETER." DESPITE MAO'S DEATH, THE DELEGATION IS OBTAINING THEIR VISAS AND PLANS TO ARRIVE AS SCHEDULED IN CHINA SEPTEMBER 15. THE ILL-FATED US GYMNASTIC TEAM, HOWEVER, WHOSE VISIT WAS INITIALLY POSTPONED BY THE EARTHQUAKE, WAS DUE TO DEPART SEPTEMBER 9. BECAUSE OF THE CHAIRMAN'S DEATH THE VISIT HAS BEEN POSTPONED INDEFINITELY.

4. ROC-PRC CULTURAL CONFLICT (CONFIDENTIAL)

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TO DATE, WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO RESOLVE THE CONFLICT OF SCHEDULING-IN TEXAS OF AN ROC CHAMBER MUSIC ORCHESTRA AND A PRC VOLLEYBALL TEAM. THE ROC MUSICIANS WILL BE PERFORMING IN HOUSTON ON OCTOBER 9, THE SAME NIGHT THAT THE VOLLEYBALL TEAM IS SCHEDULED TO PLAY IN PASADENA, A HOUSTON SUBURB SERVED BY THE SAME MEDIA. THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE, SPONSORS FOR THE VOLLEYBALL TEAM, HAS LOOKED

INTO POSSIBILITIES OF SCHEDULE CHANGES BUT MAINTAINS THAT THE DATE IS FIRM AND THAT NO APPROPRIATE ARENA IS AVAILABLE FOR THE VOLLEYBALL GAME ON ALTERNATE DATES. WE ARE STILL EXPLORING THE VARIOUS ALTERNATIVES.

5. ESSENTIAL OILS TRADE DELEGATION (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

WE HAVE ASKED USLO TO HOLD UP THE VISAS FOR A PRC TRADE DELEGATION UNTIL A US COORDINATOR IS FOUND AND A FIRM ITINERARY IS SUBMITTED. THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR US-CHINA TRADE HAS OFFERED TO ACT AS COORDINATOR BUT PRCLO HAS NOT YET RESPONDED.

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